

Remarks

Claims 27 to 29, 31 to 40, 42 and 44 are in this application.

Claims 27 to 29, 31 to 40 and 44 are allowed.

Reconsideration of the objection to the disclosure for the absence of section headings is requested. The objection is not grounded on any Statute or Rule. 37 CFR 1.77(b) uses the term "should" and is suggestive not obligatory. See for example US patents 7,540,477; 7,484,292; 7,464,961; 7,374,647; 7,214,208; 6,889,614 and 6,843,106 that do not employ section headings.

In any event, the format suggested in 37 CFR 1.77 has been followed without the use of headings.

Reconsideration of the previously allowable claim 42 on new grounds, i.e. as being anticipated by each of Haugen, Calhoun and Kammerer, is respectfully requested.

Claim 42 requires a pipe section to have "an enlarged section defining a chamber with an annular seat at a bottom of said chamber...". Calhoun does not describe or teach such a structure. Specifically, the pipe section 154 of Calhoun is of uniform diameter along the entire length thereof and does not have an enlarged section defining a chamber. Likewise, the upper portion of the pipe section 10 of Kammerer is of uniform diameter and does not have an enlarged section defining a chamber. Accordingly, a rejection of claim 42 as being anticipated by either Calhoun or Kammerer is not warranted pursuant to the provisions of 35 USC 102.

Claim 42 further requires the pipe section to have "an ... annular shoulder below said enlarged section...". Kammerer does not describe or teach such a structure.

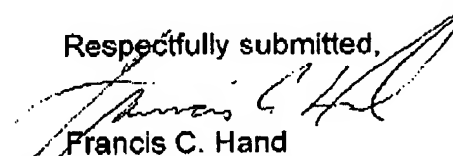
Specifically, the pipe section 10 shown in Fig. 2 of Kammerer is of uniform diameter along the length of the upper portion and of a smaller diameter in a lower portion. However, the shoulder 44 of Kammerer is located in the upper portion and not in the lower portion of the pipe section as required by claim 42. Accordingly, for this additional reason, a rejection of claim 42 as being anticipated by Kammerer is not warranted pursuant to the provisions of 35 USC 102.

Claim 42, as amended, requires the pipe section to have "an inwardly directed annular shoulder below said enlarged section...". The groove in which the snap ring 215 of Haugen is located is neither an annular shoulder nor an inwardly directed annular shoulder. Accordingly, a rejection of claim 42 as being anticipated by Haugen is not warranted pursuant to the provisions of 35 USC 102.

Should the Examiner not consider the application to be in condition for allowance, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned to resolve any outstanding issue.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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